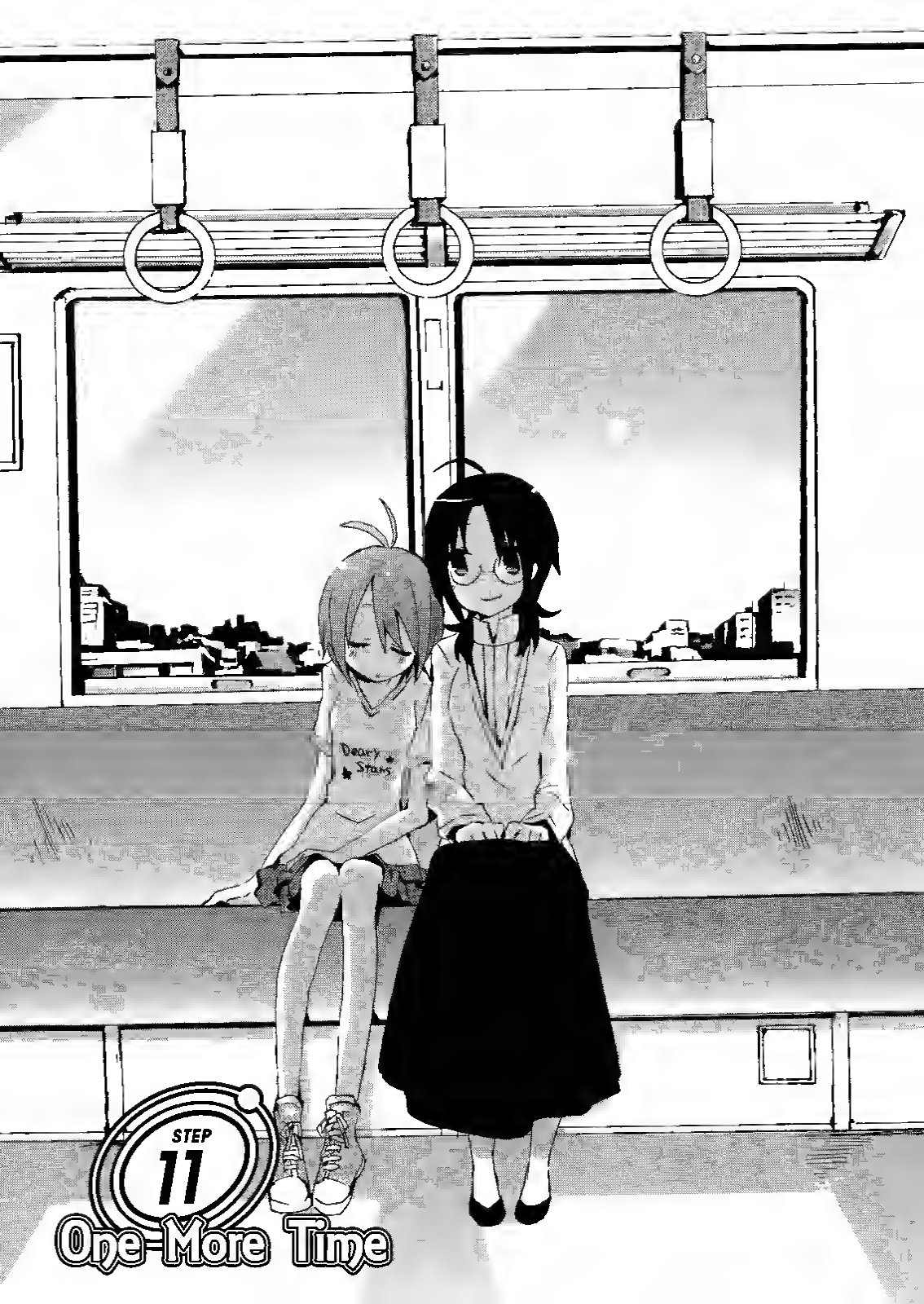
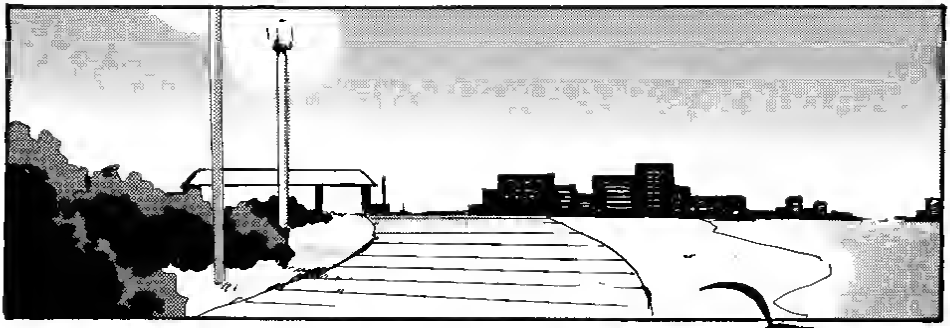

STEP
11
One More Time

I THOUGHT WE'D BE TOGETHER FOREVER
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD END
YET...
EH... I DON'T KNOW. DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU HIDAKA-SAN!?
I WOULD HAVE...
HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT YOU QUIT!?
MANAMI-SAN!!

KYA!!
WHA
OUCH... I SCRAPED MY KNEE...
I DON'T HAVE A BAND-AID EITHER...
BUT... IT ISN'T FAR
I NEED TO HURRY AND TALK TO MANAMI-SAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!
SEASIDE PARK
THIS MUST BE IT...



……
EVERYONE HAS GROWN SO MUCH SINCE THEN

THAT'S WHY
THEY'LL BE FINE WITHOUT ME
ガガ…

…THIS PLACE IS SO NOSTALGIC
THIS IS WHERE AI-CHAN AND I WENT RUNNING TOGETHER

I CAUGHT YOUUUUU !!!
AH, I KNEW IT!!
!?
AI-CHAN!?
WHAT ARE...
I... MANAMI-SAN
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM OZAKI-SAN!!

I'LL BE A GOOD GIRL FROM NOW ON..SO PLEASE!!
PLEASE DON'T QUIT!!
HUH?!
ARE YOU QUITTING BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE ME!?
I WON'T SAY SELFISH THINGS ANY-MORE!! I WON'T ARGUE ANY-MORE!!
I'LL STOP GETTING LOST AND MAKING THE STAFF ANGRY

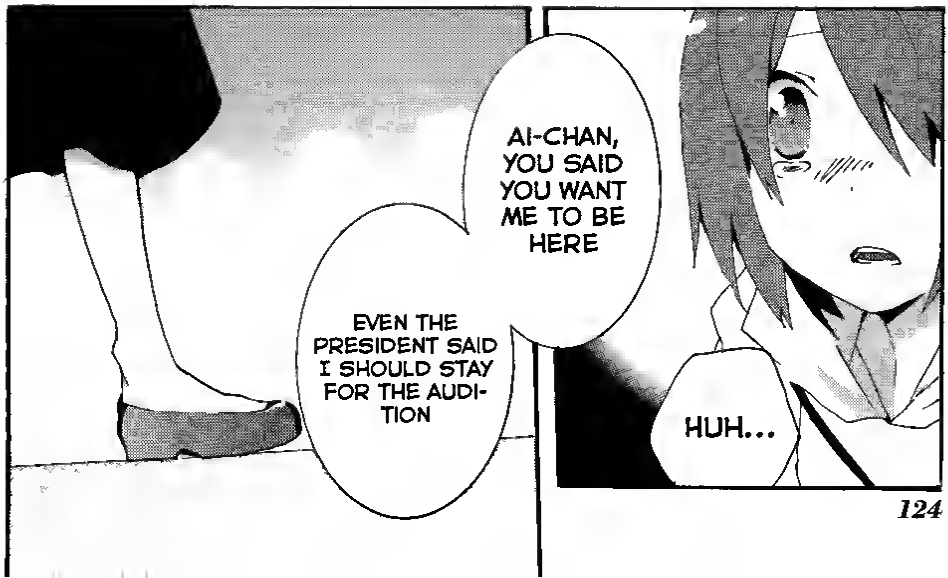
うわぁ
AI-CHAN...
あ
PLEASE DON'T QUIT!!
THAT'S WHY, THAT'S WHY...
I DON'T HATE YOU AT ALL, AI-CHAN
THAT ISN'T WHY I'M DOING THIS
I SEE... YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT
I... I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE YOUR MANAGER
.....?

YOU'RE OUTSIDE ALL DAY RUNNING AROUND
FINDING JOBS FOR ALL THE IDOLS IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE, TOO
IT ISN'T JUST TO TAKE CARE OF AN IDOL...
THE JOB OF A MANAGER
SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GET AGGRESSIVE WITH THAT KIND OF WORK
AND THERE'S STILL OFFICE WORK AND NEGOTIATION TO BE DONE AS WELL
I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO DO IT
BUT...

I'M A PROBLEM FOR THE REST OF THE STAFF
THIS MIGHT BE BEST FOR MYSELF AND FOR THE OFFICE...
THE PRESIDENT ALWAYS TELLS ME I'M BEING TOO KIND...
BUT I NEVER IMPROVED MY RESULTS
NO WAY...
AFTER MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT...
WE BOTH DECIDED THAT I SHOULD QUIT

I STILL WANT MANAMI-SAN TO STAY WITH ME...
THAT ISN'T TRUE!! MANAMI-SAN ISN'T A USELESS PERSON!

I CAN'T DO THAT FOR YOU, AI-CHAN


AI-CHAN, YOU SAID YOU WANT ME TO BE HERE
EVEN THE PRESIDENT SAID I SHOULD STAY FOR THE AUDITION
HUH...

AI-CHAN RELIES ON ME TOO MUCH
I WOULD TOO, IF I WERE YOU
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, YOU HAVE TO BECOME SELF RELIANT

TRY NOT TO FALL OR GET LOST SO EASILY, OKAY?
!!
I'M SOR...!!
ギュッ

BUT AN IDOL NEEDS THE STRENGTH TO DO HER BEST EVEN IF NO ONE IS THERE TO HELP YOU
I WANT AI-CHAN TO GAIN THAT

IT MAY BE A LOT TO ASK
BUT STILL... I HAVE ONE VERY LAST WISH FOR YOU

I'LL STAY UNTIL THE END OF YOUR NEXT AUDITION
I WANT TO SEE A RESPECTABLE AI-CHAN.
THAT WAY I WON'T BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU
OKAY?

IT CAN'T END THIS WAY.
NO
NO
I WANT SOMEONE TO EN-COURAGE ME WHEN I'M DOWN
SOMEONE WHO WOULD WATCH EVERY AUDITION
SOMEONE WHO WOULD TAKE ME TO MY TRAINING
AND WHO WOULD EAT LUNCH WITH ME, TOO.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO QUIT~!

NOT TONIGHT...
I KEEP CALLING YOU, AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?
ピンポーン
DINNER IS READY, AI!

.....
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT? HMM?
WHAT WAS THAT? DOES MAMA GET TO EAT ALONE?

I WANT AI-CHAN TO BECOME STRONG
SO THAT ONE DAY, AI -CHAN CAN STAND ON THE STAGE AS TOP IDOL
むぐ…

?
WAIT, WAIT!
AH, AI-CHAN PLEASE
THE STRINGS IN THE BACK ARE COMING UNDONE!
I HAVE TO HURRY TO THE AUDITION BEFORE IT STARTS
WAH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING MA-NAMI-SAN

AH... AI-CHAN...?
!?
I... I'M SORRY, IT'S BECAUSE I WAS PRACTICING UNTIL LATE YESTERDAY...
GOSH, IT'S BAD THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS ARRIVING AT THE LAST MINUTE, AI-CHAN
DON'T TELL ME YUKIHO-SAN IS COMPETING IN THIS AUDITION TOO!?
S..SO IT WOULD SEEM..
HUH!? YU... YUKIHO-SAN!!?
W...WHY ARE YOU HERE, AI-CHAN?
WHAT DO I DO..I DIDN'T KNOW THAT AI-CHAN WAS GOING TO COME HERE TOO..

I'LL DIG A HOLE AND BURY MYSELF IN IT!
WHAAA YOU CAN'T DIG A HOLE IN THE HALLWAY!!
WHY DO I..WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT WITH AI-CHAN
NO WAY.. NO WAY..
Y,YEAH SHE RESCUED ME ONCE WHEN I WAS LOST...!
WOW, AI-CHAN, ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH HAGIWARA YUKIHO-SAN?
EH... EEEH, SERIOUSLY...?
YUKIHO -SAN! TODAY I WANT US TO COMPETE SERIOUSLY!!
BUT...

YES!!
TODAY I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE!!
DEFINITELY!!
...ALRIGHT THEN, NEXT IS HIDAKA AI-SAN
PLEASE COME TO THE STAGE

YEAH!!
THERE YOU GO, IT'S YOUR TURN NOW AI-CHAN
GET GOING

YEAH!
I'M GOING!

...DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?

SO I CAN'T COMPLAIN OR GET DE-PRESSED
MANAMI-SAN IS WATCHING ME

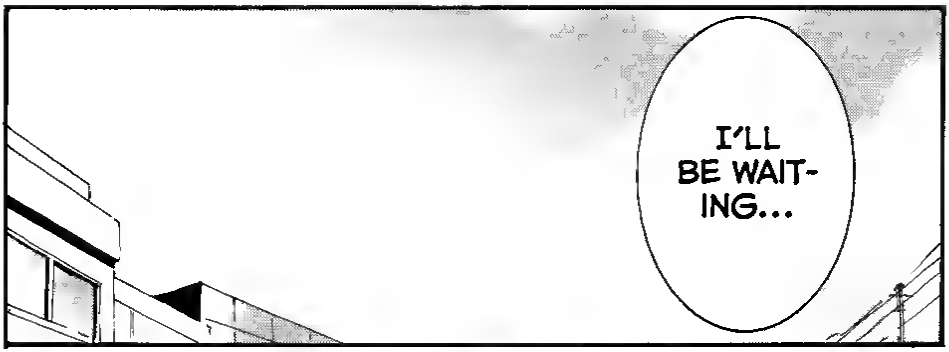
BECAUSE I'M STAND-ING ON THIS STAGE
THAT PROVES I'VE GROWN AS AN IDOL!!
STILL, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, I CAN'T STOP MANA-MI-SAN
AT LEAST

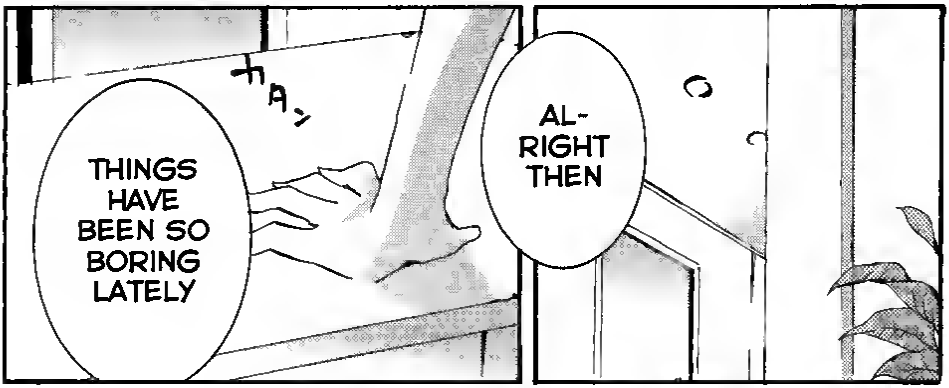
IT'S THANKS TO MANAMI-SAN THAT I CAME THIS FAR
I WANT TO USE THIS STAGE TO SHOW YOU ALL MY GRATITUDE
SO RIGHT NOW, AS I STAND ON THIS STAGE

THANK YOU
MANAMI-SAN
UUU
UUU UUU U~
DO YOU REALLY OX[]^* ~
HEY, AI! DON'T CRY SO MUCH YOU CAN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE!
わ～ん

I... I'M THANKFUL I WAS ABLE TO WORK IN YOUR OFFICE
YOU WERE A GREAT HELP UNTIL NOW, MANAMI
TAKE CARE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PRESIDENT! YOU ALL TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES, TOO!
BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO GROW ALONGSIDE ALL OF YOU
IT WAS A LOT OF FUN
WELL THEN, SEE YOU...!!
MANAMI-SAN!!

AAAH,
I
I'LL DEFINITELY BECOME TOP IDOL, SO PLEASE WATCH ME!!
AND WHEN I'M SUPER SUCCESSFUL, I'LL HIRE YOU, MANAMI-SAN!!
SO PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THEN!!
...THANK YOU, AI-CHAN


I'LL BE WAIT-ING...


THINGS HAVE BEEN SO BORING LATELY
AL-RIGHT THEN

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE, MAYBE I'LL GO OUT AND PLAY~♪

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, PRESI-DENT...!
THIS IS MY PARTING GIFT TO YOU... IT'S TO PAY YOU BACK FOR THE CREAM PUFFS